

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

Alternative Refuse Collection To Be Tried In Pilot Program

A limited pilot program to test the City's refuse collection program for 778 designated households in the Hungerford and Monument neighborhoods will begin in March.

The pilot program will give the City and its residents an opportunity to study an alternative collection method that will help stabilize the spiraling costs of collecting refuse.

The homes in the pilot program will receive a new 96-gallon, wheeled container for refuse, one 64-gallon, wheeled container for mixed paper recycling and a 22-gallon bin for commingle recycling. Their collections will be reduced from twice to once per week.

The pilot program will eliminate backyard collections for all but those who are unable to wheel their refuse to the front, such as the disabled and elderly.

The new containers will enable the City to use semi-automated refuse trucks. This is expected to lead to fewer worker injuries.

The containers also are expected to be easier to bring out to the curb than traditional, smaller refuse bins and lessen litter in neighborhoods.

It is estimated that if all refuse collections in Rockville were conducted under the provisions of the pilot program, the City will save approximately \$381,000 annually.

Refuse rates increased by 8.8 percent in FY 2005 and by 6.3 percent in FY 2006 to \$29.50 per month. However, with the new system, it is projected annual increases from FY 2008 through FY 2014 will be limited to between 1.5 percent and 2.5 percent. If the current system was kept in tact, it is estimated the monthly collection fee will be \$40.50 per month in 2014, but under the proposed modern system, the

fee will be an estimated \$35 per month per household.

In December, the Mayor and Council approved the pilot program after a March 2005 survey of 1,065 households conducted for the City's Department of Public Works showed that 72 percent of all

The nine-month pilot program will begin in March. The City will conduct a survey midway through the program and another at the end of the program to gain residents' evaluations and see if there are ways to improve. The Mayor and Council will then evaluate the



The photos above illustrate the amount of trash and recycling that can be contained in new refuse bins provided by the City to residents participating in the pilot refuse program. All of the materials in the upper photo can fit neatly into the bins that will be provided in the pilot program (bottom photo). The refuse and mixed-paper bins can hold a greater amount of refuse and recycling than common containers and can be wheeled to the curb.

respondents were supportive of the City making decisions that will keep refuse rates down. In the survey, 76 percent of respondents supported elimination of backdoor service to control rate increases and 55 percent supported once-a-week collections if provided with a large, wheeled trash cart.

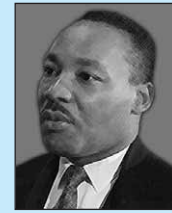
results and determine if the program should be expanded.

The pilot program will cover the Hungerford and Monument neighborhoods—and will include the households of two members of the Mayor and Council (Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmember Susan Hoffmann). **RR**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, Jan. 16

See pg. 3 for details.



INSIDE

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'Slower Speeds for Safer Schools' Program
- **CITY TAX CREDITS ISSUED IN DEC.**, pg. 3
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Rockville on Alert: Emergency Notification System Launched

Rockville residents can be notified instantly of a variety of emergency situations through the new Alert Rockville program that was launched in December.

Residents can now sign up for the Alert Rockville program that will send emergency alerts as e-mails that go to their computers, as text messages delivered to their cell phones or as messages sent to personal electronic communication devices such as pagers or BlackBerrys. The address to sign up is: <https://alert.rockvillemd.gov>.

The service will allow citizens to receive messages on one or all of these communications means. Users can register to receive alerts about weather, countywide traffic (situations that usually involve road closures of two-to-three hours or more) or alerts about specific Rockville traffic. Messages also will be sent about

major emergency situations.

Montgomery County will provide the alerts regarding weather and countywide traffic.

"Major incidents over the past several years, both in the Washington area and in other parts of the nation, have demonstrated how important it is to get early notification to as many people as possible," said Rockville Police Chief Terry Treschuk.

Citizens who sign up for text messages may be charged a message fee by their service, depending upon their service plan.

Alert Rockville is the second major emergency notification program implemented by the City in 2005. In August, the City put in place the "Rockville Reverse 911" program. Reverse 911 allows contact of citizens and/or businesses via telephone to inform them of urgent situations. **RR**

NEXT STEP

- ✓ Sign up for Alert Rockville at <https://alert.rockvillemd.gov>

Mayor and Council Focus

Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items to Watch

- **Jan. 9 (Mon.)** Citizen's Forum. Public Hearing on Proposed Centex Homes development in East Rockville (tentative). 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 23 (Mon.)** Citizen's Forum. Discussion on proposed Stormwater Management fees. 7 p.m.

January's Best of Rockville

6,7,8 Musical Theater Center: Annie Warbucks Sequel to the smash hit "Annie." Fri. and Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun., 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$16.50 adults, \$14.50 students and seniors, \$7.50 senior matinee (Jan. 7 only). 240-314-8690

8-31 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: John Borstel, Sara Pomerance, Gary Wolfe—photography; Theresa Knight McFadden—sculpture and painting (right). Opening reception, Jan. 8, 1-4 p.m. Artist talk, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. Guided tour, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. FREE. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660.



29 The Duquesne University Tamburitzans America's longest running multicultural song and dance company. 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$30 reserved seating. 240-314-8690.

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Focus on **SLOWER SPEEDS FOR SAFER SCHOOLS**

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, "Focus On" will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

Protect Rockville Students: Slow Down New 'Slower Speeds for Safer Schools' Program Comes to Rockville

Another step toward protecting Rockville pedestrians, particularly its youngest ones, will get underway in January as the City implements its "Slower Speeds for Safer Schools" pilot program. Three Montgomery County public elementary schools located in Rockville will participate in the program.

A major goal of the Mayor and Council over the past four years has been to implement programs and specific measures to protect pedestrians. Rockville's Traffic and Transportation Division in the Department of Public Works and the City's Police Department have been diligent in making the streets safer for pedestrians both through innovative new programs and strong enforcement of existing laws.

The "Slower Speeds for Safer Schools" pilot program will be in place around Ritchie Park, Meadow Hall and College Gardens elementary schools.

Starting in January, and continuing through June, the City will implement several 15 miles per hour speed limit



Meadow Hall students remind speeders to slow down during "Walk to School Day" each fall.

zones on roads adjacent to schools. Temporary signs will be erected 30 minutes before school starts and 30 minutes before school ends. The signs will be removed 30 minutes after the official start and end of the school day.

In addition to the City's Department of Public Works and its police department, Montgomery County Public Schools is helping to coordinate the pilot program.

After the test program is completed in June, it will be analyzed to determine its effectiveness. If it is successful, the reduced speed limit school zones program could be phased in at other schools in the City.

"Protecting pedestrians all around Rockville is always a top priority of our officers," said Rockville Police Chief Terry Treschuk. "We believe this program has a lot of potential to help keep our young pedestrians—and our young riders on bikes—safer as they head to school."

The pilot program continues an extensive effort during the current school year to make areas around Rockville school safer.

This past summer, the Traffic and Transportation Division completed an inventory of signs, crosswalks, missing sidewalks and pavement markings for schools in the City.

This inventory helped determine where infrastructure was needed to enhance pedestrian safety. As a result of the inventory, prior to the school year, the City installed 56 new florescent yellow green signs; 34 new florescent yellow green panels that are affixed to signs to increase drivers' awareness; 18 highly visible hatched crosswalks; and 22 "SCHOOL" pavement markings. **RR**

Proteja A Los Estudiantes De Rockville: Desacelere

En enero, la Ciudad dará otro paso para proteger a los peatones de Rockville, en particular a los más jóvenes. Tres escuelas públicas primarias de Montgomery County ubicadas en Rockville participarán en el programa piloto "Velocidades más lentas para escuelas más seguras".

Una de las metas más importantes del Alcalde y el Consejo durante los cuatro últimos años ha sido aplicar programas y medidas específicas para proteger a los peatones. La División de Tránsito y Transporte del Departamento de Obras Públicas de Rockville y el Departamento de Policía de la Ciudad trabajaron diligentemente para hacer las calles más seguras para los peatones, tanto mediante programas nuevos e innovadores y con la exigencia enérgica del cumplimiento de las leyes vigentes.

El programa piloto "Velocidades más lentas para escuelas más seguras" se ejecutará alrededor de las escuelas primarias ubicadas en Ritchie Park, Meadow Hall y College Gardens.

De enero a junio, la Ciudad establecerá varias zonas con un límite de velocidad de 15 millas por hora en las calles adyacentes a las escuelas. En esas zonas, se colocarán signos temporarios 30 minutos antes del comienzo de las clases y 30 minutos antes de su finalización. Los signos se removerán 30 minutos después del comienzo de las clases y 30 minutos después de su finalización.

Además de los Departamento de Obras Públicas y de Policía de la Ciudad, las escuelas públicas de Montgomery County está ayudando a coordinar el programa piloto. Después de que se cumpla el programa de prueba en junio, se analizará su resultado para determinar su eficacia. Si tiene éxito, las zonas escolares con límite reducido de velocidad podrían establecerse en forma escalonada alrededor de otras escuelas de la Ciudad.

"La protección de los peatones de todo Rockville es siempre la máxima prioridad de nuestros oficiales", dijo Terry Treschuk, Jefe de Policía de Rockville. "Creemos que este programa tiene mucho potencial para ayudar a

mantener a nuestros peatones jóvenes —y a nuestros jóvenes ciclistas— más seguros mientras se dirigen a la escuela".

El programa piloto forma parte de un amplio esfuerzo para hacer más seguras las zonas que rodean las escuelas de Rockville durante el presente año escolar. Durante el último verano, la División de Tránsito y Transporte completó un inventario de los signos, los cruces peatonales, las aceras faltantes y las marcas que indican las escuelas de la Ciudad en el pavimento. Este inventario ayudó a determinar dónde se necesita infraestructura para mejorar la seguridad peatonal. Como resultado del inventario y antes de comenzar el año escolar, la Ciudad instaló 56 nuevos signos fluorescentes verdes y amarillos, 34 nuevos paneles fluorescentes verdes y amarillos que se fijan a los signos para aumentar la atención de los conductores, 18 cruces peatonales sumamente visibles y 22 marcas en el pavimento con la indicación **SCHOOL**. **RR**

— translated by
Victoria Imas-Duchovny



Rockville's historic Red Brick Courthouse was draped in white after the season's first snowfall in December.

Heavy Snow Could Mean Emergency Parking Rules

Rockville's innovative snow emergency plan, which helps clear streets faster by encouraging residents to park in areas so plows can clear roads more quickly, will be in effect again this winter.

When a major snow is predicted, residents should watch local news stations including The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), listen to the radio or visit www.rockvillemd.gov to learn if the City has a snow emergency. A complete list of stations making the announcements is on page 7 of *Rockville Reports*.

When a snow emergency is declared, residents are requested to park their cars in available garages or driveways on their properties. When that is not possible, residents are required to park only on sides of the street with even house numbers. Once that lane and the main part of the street is cleared, cars must be moved to the cleared curb (odd-numbered side).

Violators may be ticketed or towed. When both sides of the street are cleared, cars can be parked in regular spaces.

Conditions leading to a "snow emergency" are significant, deep snow. The city manager may declare a "snow emergency" and will announce the status through local media,

via the City's Web site (www.rockvillemd.gov) and on The Rockville Channel (Cable Channel 11). The "snow emergency" ordinance states:

- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court
- No parking is allowed in the "bulb" of the cul-de-sac or court
- After the snowfall ends and the odd-numbered side of the street is cleared, vehicles must be moved to the odd-numbered side to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side
- The City may remove or impound cars improperly parked
- A fine of \$100 for a "snow emergency" parking violation will be incurred

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 240-314-8500. **RR**

Fore!

RedGate Municipal Golf Course Winter Rates

Effective until March 15, 2006

18 Holes (7 days)
Non-Resident: \$27
Resident: \$24
Senior: \$24

Replay Rate
\$14.50

Cart Rate/18 holes
\$10 per rider
Replay: \$5 per rider

9 Holes (7 days)
Non-Resident: \$16
Resident: \$13
Senior: \$12

Twilight Rate
\$20.00*

Cart Rate/9 holes
\$7 per rider

*Goes into effect 4 hours before sunset

ONE RATE – 7 DAYS A WEEK
www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate • 240-314-8730



Twinbrook resident Renée Canali received a 2005 Good Neighbor Award for her efforts to assist families displaced by a fire.

Good Neighbor Nominations Being Accepted for 2006

Twinbrook resident Renée Canali quickly reacted to assist 10 displaced families affected by an apartment fire in her neighborhood in spring 2005. By contacting a number of public and nonprofit agencies and private companies, she secured clothing, furniture, household supplies and even new mattresses for the relocated families.

Her swift work undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of her fellow community members.

"She is remarkable and is the type of person that Rockville could use more of," wrote Harry Thomas, who nominated Canali for a 2005 Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Award.

Canali was one of 14 residents honored by the Rockville Mayor and Council in August.

The City is once again looking for similar "Good Neighbors" for the 2006 awards.

Citizens are invited to nominate residents of any age who have made exceptional contributions to improve the quality of life in their Rockville neighborhood for the fourth annual Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards program.

Each nominee must be a resident of the City of

Rockville, must have made their significant contribution between July 2005 and June 2006, must have demonstrated their efforts beyond the scope of citizen responsibilities and must have demonstrated concern for their neighborhood or quality of life in Rockville.

City employees are not eligible for the award.

"We often say Rockville is a City that is like a small town, and in small towns, neighbors help neighbors," said Jenny Kimball, who oversees the Division of Neighborhood Resources in Rockville's City Manager's Office. "The 'Good Neighbor Awards' program has helped us recognize some of the many people who just naturally help others in need. And in some cases, we have the opportunity to pay tribute to people who just see a situation and know they have to somehow take action."

To nominate someone for exceptional service during this year's award period (July 2005-June 2006), submit a completed nomination to Dwayne Jenkins, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850 by July 3. The form and more information is available online at www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/ncs/gnaward.htm or contact Jenkins at 240-314-8343. **RR**

Rockville Residents Benefit from New Low-Income Homeowner Tax Credits

First Tax Reimbursement Checks To Be Issued by Dec. 31

A total of 344 low-income Rockville residents who in 2005 applied for, and were approved for, a new City of Rockville tax credit program, will receive reimbursement checks from the City by Dec. 31.

The Rockville Homeowners' Property Tax Credit program was approved by the Mayor and Council in the FY 2006 budget. The program supplements the State of Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit program that allows credits against the homeowner's property tax bill by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay based upon his or her income.

Rockville immediately organized an extensive campaign to make eligible homeowners aware of the Maryland and City programs, which resulted in 598 applications.

The state plan has been in existence since 1975 when it was known as the "circuit breaker" plan. The plan was called circuit breaker because it "shuts off" the property tax bill at a certain point—just

like an electric circuit breaker shuts off the current when the circuit becomes overloaded.

The state program allows for prorated savings, depending upon the homeowner's income. Rockville homeowners who qualified for the state program automatically were credited with an additional 35 percent in savings on their City property tax up to the amount of their Rockville tax liability as adjusted by other credits.

Those applicants who are still in the process of qualifying for the program through the state will receive their checks from the City shortly after they are approved by the state, but most likely after Dec. 31. The City expects to distribute about \$70,000 through the program.

The tax credit plan is designed to provide relief to Rockville homeowners who most need help. By working in conjunction with the state's tax credit plan, residents need to fill out only one application.

Under the state plan, households with combined gross income of \$35,000 or less may be

eligible for the program.

To be considered for the program:

- Applicants must own or have a legal interest in the property
- The dwelling on which the tax credit is being sought must be the applicant's principal residence where he or she lives at least six months of the year, including July 1 (unless he or she is a recent home purchaser or unless he or she is unable to do so because of health or need of special care)
- The applicant's net worth, not including the value of the property on which the credit is being sought, must be less than \$200,000

An application is routinely sent to homeowners who were recipients of a state tax credit in the previous year. However, the Homeowners' Tax Credit is not automatically granted.

To get more information on how to apply for the 2006 state and Rockville tax credit programs, or to check the status of a reimbursement check, call the City's Department of Finance at 240-314-8400. **RR**

New 'CSI: Rockville' Looking for Super Sleuth Community Volunteers

To support the City of Rockville's commitment to providing excellent customer service, the City is now recruiting people to be a part of a new program, "CSI: Rockville."

Through the program, citizens are designated "Customer Service Inquirers (CSIs)" who help the City evaluate how well employees meet the City's customer service standards. CSIs identify areas working well and those that need improvement.

CSIs must be available during

work hours (generally 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) to collect information and use tools to assess how well Rockville staff provide answers to common questions about the City's services.

After attending a brief training session in January/February, CSIs will be asked to telephone, visit or e-mail a City department with a question and then fill out a brief survey on how the question was answered. All calls/visits/e-mails will be conducted between February and April.

"Through the input and experiences of the CSIs, City staff hopes to learn where and how we can improve our customer service at the individual or citywide level," said Jill Hall, chair of the CSI: Rockville task force. "This information will help us identify needs for training, education and/or resource materials to help us continue to improve."

For more information, or to join CSI: Rockville, contact Nicole Walters at 240-314-8215 or nwalters@rockvillemd.gov. **RR**

City Honors Dr. King, Jr., On Jan. 16

"I have a dream."

These are the words Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., used to inspire a nation. His legacy will continue in Rockville on Monday, Jan. 16, at the City of Rockville's 34th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration at 12 noon at F. Scott Fitzgerald.

One of the largest celebrations in the Washington, D.C. area, Rockville's tribute will commemorate what would have

been King's 76th birthday with a free program of speeches and entertainment.

Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender (Ret.) will give the keynote address, which will focus on Dr. King's significant influence on her as she grew from being a daughter of a sharecropper to an Army general. Her speech will reflect on the significance of pursuing dreams despite personal obstacles in life.

Adams-Ender is the author of

My Rise to the Stars: How a Sharecropper's Daughter Became An Army General. She was the recipient of the Roy Wilkins Meritorious Award from the NAACP and recipient of the Gertrude E. Rush Award for Leadership from the National Bar Association.

She will join nearly 500 Rockville community members and performers to celebrate the significant achievements of Dr. King and his legacy in Rockville.



Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender (Ret)

The public is invited to attend the free event, which is made possible by the Mayor and Council of Rockville and the Rockville Hu-

man Rights Commission.

"This year, as we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Human Rights Commission decided to have an uplifting and entertaining program," said Virginia Onley, chair of the Human Rights Commission.

For more information, contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is accessible to the disabled. To contact the City's ADA Coordinator, call 240-314-8139 or TTY 240-314-8137. **RR**

Police Arrest Driver Who Hit Pregnant Woman

Rockville's K-9 Unit Again Proves Instrumental in Investigation

Rocko, Rockville's first K-9 dog in more than 20 years, again demonstrated his value to the City's Police Department by helping investigate a driver who allegedly struck a pregnant pedestrian with his truck.

A 30-year-old Rockville man's car careened out of control near Rockville Pike on Nov. 30. The car hit the woman, caused injury to another bystander and ended up through the plate glass entrance doors of a nearby business. The driver was charged with six criminal offenses and nine vehicular offenses by Rockville Police.

The victim was released from the hospital within a week of the accident.

The driver was charged with six felony counts: two counts of first degree assault, two counts of second degree assault, possession of marijuana and causing life-threatening injury by motor vehicle

while impaired by drugs.

The driver claimed that a medical emergency leading to a blackout caused his black Ford Ranger truck to veer off West Edmonston Drive, cross Rockville Pike and go into the glass doors of a business in the Tenley Building at 50 West Edmonston. However, the accounts of witnesses at the scene led to an immediate investigation by Rockville officers.

Corporal Kyle Dickerson and Rocko were called to the scene. Rocko discovered a small plastic bag of suspected marijuana that witnesses alleged the driver had instructed a passenger in the truck to hide after they emerged from the vehicle. Rocko discovered the baggie hidden in a bush by a railroad bridge near the accident scene.

"Whenever someone is seriously injured in an incident, the recovery of that individual becomes our No. 1 priority,"



K-9 Unit Officer Kyle Dickerson and Rocko

said Rockville Chief of Police Terry Treschuk. "The victims in this case received immediate medical care. However, our next priority is to make sure we determine who is accountable, the facts that led to the incident and the gathering of evidence in regard to the case. We are very proud of the work all of our officers did under difficult circumstances in this investigation. And once again, this investigation proved the value of Rocko and our K-9 program." **RR**

The Best of Holiday Group Activities: Giving From the Heart to Others

About 25 employees from Rockville's Lydian Wealth Management group, with support from their managers, made packing Thanksgiving baskets for the City of Rockville's Holiday Drive a team activity. Lydian employees also worked to supply toys for Rockville's "Secret Toy Shop" and the company provided the first-ever Santa at the Toy Shop, where parents in needy families can select among hundreds of toys provided by residents and businesses in the Rockville community.

The Faith United Methodist Church, which is located just outside of the city but has many residents among its members, has been a longtime active supporter of the Holiday Drive. This year, the church asked its youth group to get involved, and the younger members did so with enthusiasm, raising \$5,000 in donations, which was used to purchase gift cards and about 160 presents for the Secret Toy Shop.

Lydian and the Faith United youth group are examples of how some make contributing to the Holiday Drive a fun group activity that also helps some of the City's



A volunteer prepares to unpack toys for the City's annual Holiday Drive Toy Shop.

neediest residents. And it is not too late to make significant contributions to the 2005 Holiday Drive, meeting the theme of *Take Part and Give from the Heart*.

Monetary donations are still needed to cover the food and gift certificates that will be distributed.

More than 725 Rockville households were referred to the City for assistance in November. In response, the City and its partners, including the Mount Calvary Baptist Church,

the Basket Brigade and the Manna Food Center, distributed hundreds of pounds for Thanksgiving food baskets. More than 125 adult and student volunteers helped with the City's Thanksgiving distribution, sorting, packing and distributing food at a site provided by C. J. O'Shaughnessy, Inc.

Major food drives were conducted by a number of Rockville schools, including Richard Montgomery and Rockville high schools, Robert Frost and Earle B Wood middle schools, the Franklin School and Christ Episcopal School.

City employees joined the fundraising effort this year, raising nearly \$500 from the proceeds of an employee gift mart. In addition, most City departments are participating in the Family Sponsorship Program, which provides personalized gifts for families that are matched with sponsors.

For those who wish to donate to the Holiday Drive, checks made payable to the Rockville Holiday Drive Fund can be dropped off or mailed to the City of Rockville Department of Community Services, 20 Courthouse Square No. 205, Rockville MD 20850. **RR**

Rockville Earns 'Gold' as Chesapeake Bay Partner

The City of Rockville was recertified in November as a Gold Level Chesapeake Bay Partner, the highest level of distinction in the Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Awards Program.

Rockville received the award for the City's demonstrated commitment to restoring and protecting the bay, its rivers and its streams.

Launched in 1997, the Bay Partner Communities program recognizes towns and cities that implement bay-friendly measures.

Partners is based on the jurisdiction's adherence to a set of benchmarks that aim to protect and restore the bay watershed. These four benchmarks are improving water

quality, protecting and restoring living resources and habitat, promoting sound land use and engaging the community.

Communities receive varying levels of recognition—Gold, Silver and Bronze—based on the community's population and the percentage of benchmarks met in the four theme areas. Communities meeting the criteria are recognized for their efforts and presented roadside signs denoting the jurisdiction as a "Chesapeake Bay Partner Community."

For more information about Rockville's watershed activities, visit the City's Environmental Protection Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov/government/cpds/environment.htm. **RR**

Step Up to Health: Biking Tips for Rain and Cold Weather

Many people in Rockville are choosing to use their bicycles for transportation. Now that colder months have arrived, they may find they need to ride in rain and snow.

With so many health, environmental and economic benefits associated with bicycle riding, even the novice rider can learn to work around rain and snow.

A combination of good riding skills and the right equipment can make the commute much safer and more comfortable.

Following these bicycling tips can help everyone enjoy their winter rides:

Preparing to Stay Dry and Warm: Wearing a rain jacket and pants are the best defense against foul weather as they cut

down on wind and keep out wetness. Breathable fabrics are preferred, but not required. Bicycle fenders also help keep clothes from getting dirty. Additional items to consider include waterproof gloves, a snug hood or cap, a synthetic clothing under-layer to whisk away moisture and rain booties to protect shoes. And most importantly, no matter what the weather, always wear a helmet.

Braking Early and Often: Allow plenty of stopping distance in wet weather. Before planning to stop, gently squeeze the brakes to clear the water from the brake pads.

Avoiding Puddles: A puddle can disguise a deep pothole, so avoid puddles whenever possible. **RR**



SNOW FALLS BUT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES...Despite winter weather in December, construction continued on the new Rockville Town Square development in Rockville Town Center. A snow covered site is pictured here in this Dec. 9 photo. Watch for new details on RockvilleTown Square in a special insert in the February edition of Rockville Reports.

Chestnut Lodge Development: Modifications Made to Proposal

The developer proposing to build 44 luxury homes—including 37 single-family homes with detached garages—on the former Chestnut Lodge property in the West End of Rockville, has made a number of modifications to its plans based on concerns of the Mayor and Council.

Chestnut Lodge is on a 20.4-acre site that was once home to one of the nation's foremost psychiatric hospitals and the Woodlawn Hotel. The modifications were outlined at a Nov. 28 worksession of the Mayor and Council.

On Dec. 13, the Mayor and Council, City staff members and representatives of Chestnut Lodge Properties, Inc., toured the site to get a better focus on some of the aspects of the proposal. Further discussion is expected in January.

The site, which is one of the City's few remaining undeveloped sites of significant size, is nestled around historic homes along West Montgomery Avenue and adjacent to new communities. The Mayor and Council have worked with the current owner, and previous owners, of the now unoccupied property to preserve several of the historic buildings on the property.

Chestnut Lodge Properties has proposed that the Chestnut Lodge main building be converted into seven condominium units. It also has proposed that the building known as the "Little Lodge" be maintained as a single dwelling unit. According to the plan, the building known as "Frieda's Cottage" would be given to Peerless Rockville, the organization dedicated to preserving Rockville's history. Peerless has



(Front, left to right) Councilmembers Phyllis Marcuccio, Bob Dorsey, Susan Hoffmann and Mayor Larry Giammo tour the Chestnut Lodge site with developers and community members.

suggested that having that building be a private residence would be the best means of preserving it.

Eight significant changes in the modified plans presented in November include moving one house from the southwest corner of the property to a parcel that was originally designated as open space. This would allow a reduction in the height of retaining walls that would be behind Tall Grass Court. Other modifications would allow for the saving of large trees on the site and have the historic Rose Hill Barn become an accessory structure to a new single-family home in the Chestnut Lodge development rather than be given to the owners of the Rose Hill Mansion.

The applicant for the Planned Residential Unit (PRU) asks that the developer not be required to dedicate any portion of the development for publicly-owned parkland, particularly the eight-acre front lawn of the Lodge. The appli-

cation proposes two open spaces that will be maintained by the future homeowners association. However, the Rockville PRU ordinance requires that in a development that has condominiums, the developer must dedicate at least 140,000 square feet of parkland (more than four acres) to city control.

The developer also has asked for minor reductions in the setbacks on the new single-family lots and seeks to have the detached garages exceed height limits set in the City's Zoning Ordinance by three feet. The applicant is requesting a reduction in the normally required road right-of-way width from 60 feet to 41 feet.

The Mayor and Council must approve any changes or waivers requested that differ from requirements in the Zoning Ordinance. Rockville's Planning Commission this past fall recommended approval of the project's exploratory application with a series of conditions. **RR**

Zoning Changes: Complicated, But Affecting All

Zoning codes are often complicated and technical, seemingly meant only for planners and land-use attorneys to interpret. However, they eventually affect all residents and businesses.

Zoning codes regulate structures and uses on privately- and sometimes publicly- owned lands.

Starting in January, Rockville will embark on a major project to bring its zoning regulations up-to-date and make them easier to understand. To assist in this effort, the City is seeking interested and qualified citizens to join a task force that will help guide the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.

The task force will be appointed by the Mayor and Council. Current plans are for the task force to review the outline in March and April and work on the ordinance further October through December. The Planning Commission and the Mayor and Council are scheduled to consider the revisions though most of 2007.

"It will be a major time commitment, but those who serve will be instrumental in shaping the course of future development in the City," said Somer Cross, a City planner who will be working on the revisions. "The committee is meant to be a sounding board for City staff, the Planning Commission and the Mayor and Council—and a substantive shaper of the new regulations. The work of the review committee will help to ensure that the document reflects the interests of all stakeholders in the City."

The nine-member work group will include one member of the Mayor and Council, two members from the Planning Commission, one from the City's Board of Appeals, two individuals representing the development community and three Rockville residents.

Applications for participation can be obtained by calling the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280. Applications must be filed by Jan. 27.

The last comprehensive zoning revision to Rockville's Zoning Ordinance took place more than 30 years ago. Since that time, the current ordinance has been amended frequently, and sometimes inconsistently, leaving it in a form that even experienced planners sometimes have a difficult time understanding and interpreting.

In addition, the theories of land use planning have changed since the last revision.

For more information on the zoning revision process or about serving on the zoning revision committee, contact Rockville's Planning Department at 240-314-8000. **RR**



Mayor
Larry Giammo



Councilmember
Bob Dorsey



Councilmember
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
Phyllis Marcuccio



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. generally one Monday per month. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, the Councilmember scheduled for January is:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 17:** Susan Hoffmann

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov.

Citizens may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" portion at most general session meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- **Jan. 9 (Mon.)** Citizen's Forum. Public Hearing Centex Homes proposed development in East Rockville (tentative), 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 17 (Tues.)** Quarterly Project Report (tentative), 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 23 (Mon.)** Citizen's Forum. Discussion of proposed Stormwater Management fees. 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 30 (Mon.)** Meeting. 7 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Human Services Advisory Commission (one at-large)
- Human Rights Commission (one)
- Rockville Scholarship Fund (one)
- Rockville Sister City Corp. (two)
- Traffic and Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

You've Got Rockville E-Mail

Rockville news and information on what is coming up on the Mayor and Council and major Boards and Commissions meeting agendas can now be available to you even before *Rockville Reports* hits mailboxes each month.

The City in conjunction with RockNet, a volunteer group of citizens interested in technology, operates e-mail news services that can deliver Rockville news releases and major City meeting agendas to e-mail boxes as soon as they are released to the public.

"It is another way people can be kept informed of what is

happening in Rockville," said Betsy Robbins, the City's Web administrator. "These e-mail services have been available for several years. But now people can more easily subscribe and make changes to their e-mail address thanks to new technology we launched in December."

To subscribe to Rockville News, which provides City news releases on a variety of issues, send an e-mail to "join-rockvillenews@rocknet.org".

For Mayor and Council and Boards and Commissions meeting agendas, e-mail "join-agenda@rocknet.org".

The body and subject of the

e-mails should be blank. After sending the first subscription e-mail, simply reply to the response e-mail to confirm participation.

The City's Division of Public Information distributes between 10-20 news releases each month to the Rockville News list. The City Clerk's office generally distributes weekly meeting agendas. Users can unsubscribe from any list at anytime by following instructions at the bottom of each e-mail.

All news releases and agendas also can be found on the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov. **RR**



Walking is good for your health all year long. When walking or running outside in the winter, be sure to dress properly.

New Year, New You With 'Walk Rockville'

The City of Rockville is encouraging residents to "Step Up to Health" by participating in a free community-wide walking program called "Walk Rockville."

Walk Rockville is one major new program of the City's "Step Up to Health" initiative. Walk Rockville encourages residents to head outside and explore the 14 square miles of Rockville by foot. In doing so, citizens will reap the many health benefits of being active.

"Finding opportunities to walk more, whether it is to a store, a neighbor's house or to enjoy nature, is one easy way to add exercise into each day," said Krista Collier, a recreation programs supervisor and Walk Rockville coordinator. "We

are pleased to be able to offer a number of new resources to help people walk more throughout the City."

Citizens can join in Walk Rockville in their own neighborhood or by choosing one of the 14 walking paths designated in the new *Walk Rockville City Guide*. The routes are one to two miles in length and are easy to follow with printed maps. The guide can be found online at www.rockvillemd.gov/stepup and at facilities throughout the City.

Residents are encouraged to keep track of their steps using a pedometer, then submit their total steps each month to the City to be counted as part of the City-wide Walk

Rockville program. A sample log sheet can be downloaded free at www.rockvillemd.gov/stepup and should be mailed to Walk Rockville, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Md. 20850.

Participants of all ages will be eligible for awards for the most steps walked.

To encourage participation in the new program, the City of Rockville's Recreation Department is offering a complete Walk Rockville Starter

Kit. The kit includes a pedometer, a Step Up to Health t-shirt and water bottle, reusable tote bag, walking tips and log sheets, nutrition and wellness information and maps of designated walking paths. Cost of the kit is \$10.

Kits can be purchased at Rockville City Hall located at 111 Maryland Avenue. The Walk Rockville Starter Kit is also available for purchase at the Rockville Senior Center, Rockville Municipal Swim Center, Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

"Everyone can benefit from staying healthy, energetic and fit," said Phil Bryan, Superintendent of Recreation. "Walk Rockville is one of the many ways people can have fun while getting fit in the City."

For more information about Walk Rockville, contact Collier at 240-314-8632 or kcollier@rockvillemd.gov. **RR**

Rockville Library Story Times Begin

The Montgomery County Public Library in Rockville is offering free story times for children from birth through age 6 and parents beginning in January.

While the Rockville Library tradition has been around for countless years, this year's story times will be special because they are among the last in this location. Construction of the new Rockville Library in Rockville Town Center is underway and will feature an enhanced children's literacy area for future story times.

Story times are programs led by Rockville children's librarians for three different age groups and respective parents. Each story time is about 30 minutes and features books read aloud, activities and music based on a theme such as a season. Every program is based on the latest early child-

hood literacy research to enhance children's learning.

"Cuddle up" story times are for newborns to 23 months and feature nursery rhymes, music and activities for parents and babies to share together. Children ages 2-3 also must attend with their parents to take part in age-appropriate stories, activities, stretches, group plays and music. For 4-6 year olds, the Rockville Library offers longer, more challenging books and activities to improve children's vocabulary.

"Our goal is to promote early literacy," said Diane Monnier, senior librarian for Senior and Adult Children's Services. "We model story time activities and pre-reading skills to encourage parents to read to their children and engage them in conversation about books."

Each story time is about 30

minutes. No registration is required. Parents and children should meet in the children's section of the library. **RR**

Below are upcoming story times:

- **Cuddle-up story time (newborn-23 months):** 10:15 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and 17, March 3 and 17. 9:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 14 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25, and March 11 and 25.
- **Adult and Child story time (ages 2-3):** 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 1 and 15, March 1 and 15. 9:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 21, Feb. 4 and 18 and March 4 and 18.
- **Child story time (ages 4-6, parent attendance encouraged but not required):** 10:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 12-March 30.



Summer is Cool with Rockville Camps

Winter is frosty, but summer is cool with Rockville's summer camps. Kids and adults should already start planning on lots of summer fun. City of Rockville Summer Camp Guides will be mailed to residents in late January and will be available on www.rockvillemd.gov (click on 'Rock Enroll') Registration begins Jan. 31. Most programs begin June 19.

Bridal Expo At Glenview Mansion on Jan. 29

Every newly engaged couple wants their wedding to be special and unique. And for the seventh year in the row, Rockville's Glenview Mansion is offering brides, grooms, family members, wedding planners—anyone planning a big event—a one-stop event where they can get new ideas and information about the many services available to make their dreams a reality.

The 7th Annual Glenview Mansion Bridal Expo will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 12 noon-4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Call 240-314-8660 for details or to reserve a ticket.

More than two dozen vendors will be available to discuss ideas and prices for nearly any item or service a couple could want. View color-

ful floral arrangements and taste-test everything from appetizers to cakes. Sit in a limo or antique car and feel the fabric, lace and beadwork of a potential wedding dress. Or spend the afternoon scouring sample invitations or pouring over photographs of a potential photographer.

This intimate affair offers the unique opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with many of the area's top wedding service providers.

For more information about the 7th Annual Bridal Expo or renting Glenview Mansion for an occasion, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview. **RR**

A bridal gown show is one popular part of the Bridal Expo at Glenview Mansion each year.



In Brief

Less-Salt Helps the Environment

Keeping ice and snow off of sidewalks and driveway is important for safety, but there are environmental consequences when salt and sand used to keep pathways clear melts away and washes into Rockville's streams and waterways.

Removing fresh snow before it has a chance to harden into ice is the best method to keep pavements clear. Choosing de-icing products with calcium chloride (CaCl₂) also is better for the environment than popular rock salt or sodium chloride (NaCl).

For more ideas on how to help Rockville's environment, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/government/cpds/environment.htm.

CALL **240-314-8212** FOR INFO

Donate to Assist With Utility Bills

Help a fellow Rockville resident by donating to the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program by filling in the space on your quarterly utility bill.

Your contribution will go into the fund that helps residents who need assistance with housing, utilities or medical bills.

CALL **240-314-8310** FOR INFO

Hazardous Waste

Call the City's Dept. of Public Works between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, to schedule free collection of the following waste: oil, car batteries, tires, oil-based paint, flammable liquids, pesticides and poisons, acids, caustics and swimming pool chemicals. For items not listed, call to determine if the City will collect the item or how to properly dispose of it.

CALL **240-314-8568** FOR INFO

Snow Shovelers for Seniors Wanted

Many older citizens can not physically shovel snow.

Rockville's Senior Center is compiling names of volunteers who are willing to help seniors by shoveling their sidewalks and driveways after winter snowfalls. The Senior Center is also compiling a list of seniors who regularly need help.

Those wishing to volunteer, and those seniors who may need assistance, should call in advance of upcoming winter storms.

CALL **240-314-8810** FOR INFO

Snow Shoveling

Snow must be removed from all sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and the paved right-of-way sidewalks immediately fronting or abutting a property. This includes access ramps and curb cuts designed for use by people with disabilities.

Snow and ice removal must occur within 24 hours if the snowfall is less than three inches and within 48 hours if it surpasses three inches. Fines may be imposed if the City ordinance is not followed.

CALL **240-314-8330** FOR INFO

Rockville Inclement Weather Updates

To find out whether a City meeting or recreation program has been cancelled due to the winter weather, always check the City's Web site (www.rockvillemd.gov), The Rockville Channel (Cable Channel 11) and the following radio and television stations:

Radio: WTOP (1500 AM, 820 AM, 107.7 FM and 103.5 FM); WARW (94.7 FM); WRQX (107.3 FM); WFRE (99.9 FM and 930 AM).

TV: WRC-TV (NBC Channel 4); WTTG-Fox TV (Channel 5); WJLA-TV (ABC Channel 7 and NewsChannel 8); and WUSA-TV (CBS Channel 9).

The Rockville Recreation Inclement Weather Hotline number is 240-314-5020.

CALL **240-314-8116** FOR INFO

CITY

6,13,20,27 MOBY

Medical Clinic Primary medical care for low-income, uninsured, working-poor and homeless people in Montgomery County. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

15 Step Up to Yoga Donation yoga class to benefit the Rockville Recreation Fund and the City's "Step Up to Health" initiative. Pre-registration required. 1-2:30 p.m. Thrive Yoga, 1221 B Rockville Pike 301-294-9642.

15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day The City's 34th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. Entertainment includes Duke Ellington School of the Arts Concert Choir, Tappers With Attitude and Soul in Motion Players. 12 noon. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE. 240-314-8690.

21 Off-Leash Dog Testing Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. 10 a.m. Swim Center Outdoor Entrance Parking Lot. 240-314-8930

29 Bridal Expo 12-4 p.m. Glenview Mansion. Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$7 at door. 240-314-8660

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006. Tickets may be purchased online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. Service charges apply.

6,7,8 Musical Theater Center: "Annie Warbucks" Fri and Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun., 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$16.50 adults, \$14.50 students and seniors, \$7.50 senior matinee (Jan. 7 only) 240-314-8690

8-31 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: John Borstel, Sara Pomerance, Gary Wolfe – photography; Theresa Knight McFadden – sculpture and painting. Opening Reception, Jan. 8, 1-4 p.m. Artist Talk, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. Guided Tour, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. FREE. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660.

january

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

8 Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: IONA- Celtic music 2-3 p.m. Glenview Mansion. FREE. 240-314-8682.

14 National Philharmonic Presents Piano Trios 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$25, \$18, \$11 (depending on seat location). 240-314-8690.

19-22,27-28

Rockville Little Theatre: The Sisters Rosenweig 8 p.m. (Sun. at 2 p.m.) F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$14 adults, \$12 seniors (62 and older) and students with valid ID; \$7 children 12 and under; \$4 seniors and students on Jan. 19 only. 240-314-8690.

29 The Duquesne University Tamburitans 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$30 reserved seating. 240-314-8690.

31 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra Winter Concert Local student musicians perform popular classics. 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE. 240-314-8690.

NATURE

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.

11 Tiny Tot Walk – Owls Have a hootin' time imitating some of the calls of these feathered hunters. 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Ages 1 1/2-2. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

11 Tyke Hike – Owls 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

19 Bird Walk for Beginner's Walk the trails and discover which birds are wintering in the area. Note: Bring binoculars and wear good walking shoes. 7-9 a.m. Ages 18-over. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.

20 Owl Prowl Search the woods and stream valley for these nocturnal hunters. Learn what owls might live in your neighborhood. 7-8 p.m. Ages 5-over. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

25 Stamping for Adults Get out of the winter doldrums by playing with hundreds of nature stamps at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

calendar of events

10 -11:30 a.m. Ages 18-over. \$8 RES/\$9 NR.

31 Fox Tales Learn about foxes and hike to see a fox den. 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-6. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800

3 Flood To Eternity 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. \$2 MEM/\$4 NM.

4 Computers: Clarify Concepts 10 a.m.-12 noon \$6MEM/\$8NM

5 Winter Trip Lottery 10:30 a.m.

9,23,30-Feb.27

Piecemakers 12:45-2:45 p.m. \$8 MEM/\$10 NM. Register by Jan. 2.

10 Expeditions Westward 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by Jan. 3.

10,12,17 Computers: The Essentials 1-3 p.m. \$23MEM/\$27NM

10,12,17 Digital Photography for Beginners 10 a.m.-12 noon \$35MEM/\$40NM

11 January Birthday and Anniversary Party 1:30-3 p.m. FREE.

12 Managing Retirement Income 10 a.m.-12 noon. FREE

18 Self-Portraits – Smithsonian Art 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by Jan. 4.

18 Music & Lyrics of Cole Porter 1-2 p.m. \$2 MEM/\$4 NM. Register by Jan. 4.

18,25 Computers: Simple Word Processing 1-3 p.m. \$8MEM/\$10NM

19,26-Feb.23

Watercolor - Advanced 10 a.m.-12 noon \$54MEM/\$67NM (Register by Jan. 12)

19-Mar.9 Italian for the Beginner II 10 a.m.-12 noon \$20MEM/\$23NM

19 Practical Health Tips for Seniors 1-2 p.m. FREE

20 Asian Animals & Pandas – Zoo On Wheels 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$2 MEM/\$4 NM. Register by Jan.13.

23,30-Mar.6

Group Piano – Advanced Beginner 10:15-11:15 a.m. \$60 MEM/\$75 NM. Register by Jan. 12.

24,31-Feb.28

Group Piano – Advanced Intermediate 10:15-11:15 a.m. \$60 MEM/\$75 NM. Register by Jan. 13.

24 Emergency Preparedness Training 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by Jan. 12.

24,31-Feb.28

Group Piano – Elementary 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$60 MEM/\$75 NM. Register by Jan. 13.

24,26,31-Feb.7

Computers: Windows XP 1-3 p.m. \$35MEM/\$43NM

26 In The Kitchen With Judy – Stir Up A Chinese New Year 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$26 MEM/\$30 NM. Register by Jan. 19.

26 Big Band Era Plus 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by Jan. 19.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

7 Board of Appeals, 9:30 a.m.

10 Human Services Advisory Commission, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center

10 Commission on the Environment, 7:30 p.m.

11 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

11 Cultural Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

17 Rockville Seniors, Inc., 1 p.m., Senior Center

17 Town Center Action Team, 7 p.m., Room 105, Red Brick Courthouse

18 Rockville Housing Enterprises, 6:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Community Center

18 Sign Review Board, 4 p.m. (held as needed)

19 Rockville Historic District Commission 7 p.m.,

19 Rockville Sister City Corporation, 7:30 p.m.

19 Senior Citizens Commission, 10 a.m., Senior Center

24 Traffic and Transportation Commission, 7:30 p.m.

25 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

25 Human Rights Commission, 7:30 p.m.

26 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7 p.m.

27 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096)



BAZAAR SUCCESS...The December Senior Center Bazaar raised \$4,500 thanks to the many people who participated.

Rockville Up Close: **Rockville Economic Development, Inc.**

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

REDI Women’s Business Plan Competition

Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening and broadening the economic base of Rockville, is kicking off its third annual “StartRight! Women’s Business Plan” competition.

The competition fosters women entrepreneurs in the early stages of business development and encourages them to create a solid business plan.

“The business plan is the foundation of a good business,” said Sally Sternbach, executive direc-



Thrive Yoga founders Susan Bowen (center) and Kim Groark (left) earned top prize of \$5,000 in the Women’s Business Plan Competition in 2005.

tor of REDI. “Start-up businesses are much more likely to succeed when they have a written plan.”

The competition is open to businesses that are at least 51 percent women-owned, in business for two years or less, and qualified to operate in Maryland, the District of Columbia or Virginia. Prizes will be awarded at the 2006 Women in Business Conference and Tradeshow on March 10.

The competition gives new businesses a boost with cash

prizes, publicity, and an opportunity for review and recommendations from an experienced panel. The judges will represent area businesses, financial institutions, organizations, government agencies and colleges.

The business plan cannot exceed 25 pages and must address the following: Executive summary; table of contents; description of the business including location, differentiation from competition and long and short term goals; products

and/or services offered; market analysis; marketing plan; management and personnel; and cash flow projection and proforma financial statements (three-year minimum). Applicants need to submit eight copies of their plans.

The executive summary must include the following: Name and trade name; form of entity; state of organization, principal place of business, states that the business is qualified to operate; percentage of woman ownership; principal contact name, address, phone, e-mail and Web site URL, if applicable; and months in business.

First prize is \$5,000 (sponsored by Eagle Bank). Second prize is \$2,500 (sponsored by AEPCO). Third prize is \$1,000 (sponsored by Taliesan Associates).

An executive summary and \$25 application fee is due by Feb. 3. The latest the business plan may be postmarked is Feb. 8.

For more information, call 301-315-8096. **RR**



Volunteer Time: JSSA Hospice

There are many ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations by volunteering in the City. Each month “Volunteer Time” highlights a different opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

Marilyn Berger, a 55-year-old office manager for an event planning company, spends one day per week in Rockville caring for a terminally ill patient. However, Berger is not a doctor, and she has never been to medical school.

She is a volunteer with the City of Rockville-based Jewish Social Service Agency’s hospice program, which provides patients with emotional support, extra care and good conversation.

Among its many services to those in the Washington, D.C. area, JSSA’s hospice program pairs adults with terminally ill patients in order make their last days more comfortable and enjoyable.

Before becoming involved with JSSA, Berger experienced the help of a hospice volunteer in her own home.

“When my mother died under the care of a hospice, I realized that I could help other mothers and grandmothers in the same way,” said Berger. “The JSSA provides an excellent, compassionate and well-organized way to volunteer.”

After five years in the program, Berger has worked with more than 20 different people ranging from 55 to 90 years old. Many she has worked with suffered from cancer or heart complications.

She visits each patient once a week. They spend their time together chatting about life, eating meals and reading to each other.

JSSA Hospice offers training for its volunteers in areas such as death and dying, active listening and spiritual needs of the patient and family.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Amy Kaufman Goott, at 301-816-2650 or visit www.jssa.org.

— by Rebecca Janoff

Yoga Helps City ‘SUTH’

Bridge, cobra, warrior, triangle and shoulderstand. These are just a few of the yoga postures that Rockville citizens can try on Jan. 15 at a yoga fundraising event sponsored by the City of Rockville’s Department of Recreation and Parks and Thrive Yoga.

The event benefits the Rockville Recreation Fund, which provides financial assistance to children who would not otherwise be able to participate in recreation programs and activities. It also is a part of the new Rockville health and fitness initiative, Step Up to Health (SUTH).

The one-hour yoga class will take place on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. at Thrive Yoga, 1321-B Rockville Pike. Food, fun and prizes will follow the classes.


Spaces are limited. Advanced registration is required and can be accomplished by calling Thrive Yoga at 301-294-9642 or through the City of Rockville’s Recreation System, RockEnroll, online at www.rockvillemd.gov. The course number is # 17828.

Participants should wear comfortable, stretchable clothing that breathes. **RR**



Yoga is for all ages through City of Rockville Recreation classes.

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL JANUARY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE							CLIP & SAVE
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission	Historic District Commission	Mayor & Council	Mayor & Council	Historic District Commission	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission	
6 a.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
6:30 a.m.	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	
7 a.m.	Caregivers: Homeless	Hi-Tech Patrol	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Hi-Tech Patrol	Caregivers: Homeless	Annual Report	Caregivers: Homeless	
7:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
8 a.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
8:30 a.m.	Historic District Commission	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council	
9 a.m.		Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	Annual Report	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development		
9:30 a.m.					Hi-Tech Patrol			
10 a.m.					Exploring Rockville's Past			
10:30 a.m.		Hi-Tech Patrol	Exploring Rockville's Past	Caregivers: Homeless	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Annual Report		
11 a.m.		Caregivers: Homeless	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Exploring Rockville's Past	Caregivers: Homeless	Hi-Tech Patrol	Cityline	
11:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
12:30 p.m.	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	
1 p.m. until meeting ends	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Historic District Commission	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission	
4 p.m.	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development		Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	Annual Report		Rockville U: Planning & Community Development		
4:30 p.m.		Annual Report		Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development		Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	
5 p.m.		Hi-Tech Patrol		Exploring Rockville's Past				
5:30 p.m.	Caregivers: Homeless	Caregivers: Homeless	Exploring Rockville's Past	Hi-Tech Patrol		Hi-Tech Patrol		
6 p.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
6:30 p.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
7 p.m.	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	Planning Commission	Caregivers: Homeless	Mayor & Council	Rockville U: Planning & Community Development	
7:30 p.m.					Hi-Tech Patrol	Historic District Comm. (3rd Thurs.)		
8 p.m.					RU: Planning & Comm. Dev.			
8:30 p.m.			Hi-Tech Patrol				Exploring Rockville's Past	
9 p.m.			Caregivers: Homeless				Destination: rockvillemd.gov	
9:30 p.m.			Cityline		Cityline		Cityline	
10 p.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
10:30 p.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
11 p.m.	Hi-Tech Patrol	Hi-Tech Patrol	Exploring Rockville's Past	Caregivers: Homeless	Exploring Rockville's Past	Hi-Tech Patrol	Annual Report	
11:30p.m.	Annual Report	Caregivers: Homeless	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Hi-Tech Patrol	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Caregivers: Homeless	Exploring Rockville's Past	



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LARRY GIAMMO

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